

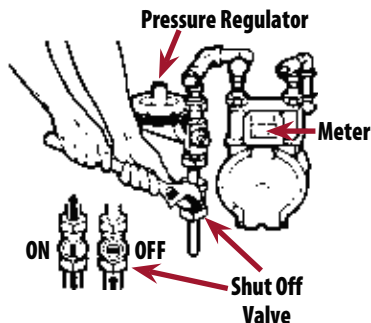
# HOW TO TURN OFF THE UTILITIES

**When disaster strikes, it often affects one or more of your home's utility systems. It is important to know where the main controls are located, and when and how to turn them off.**

## **Gas Meter (see illustration)**

- Locate your gas meter and valve.
- Have a wrench immediately available to turn off the gas supply.
- If you smell natural gas, evacuate immediately. Do not use matches, lighters, open flame appliances, or operate electrical switches. Sparks could ignite gas causing an explosion.
- Shut off gas **ONLY** if you smell gas or hear a hissing noise. Contact the gas company to turn the gas back on.

## **GAS METER**



## **Electricity**

- Locate your main electrical switch or fuse panel, and learn how to turn off the electrical power system.
- If a generator is used as a backup power supply, remember to follow the manufacturer's instructions. Connect lights and appliances directly to the generator and not to the electrical system.

## **Water**

- Turn off water at the main meter or at the water main leading into the house. This will prevent contaminated water from entering your water heater and plumbing.
- Turn off the valve — turn to the right. This will require a special valve wrench, available from a hardware store. Make sure you have the tool readily available.



**WASHINGTON MILITARY DEPARTMENT**  
**Emergency Management Division**

***Please contact your utility or local emergency management office for specific information about your home utility system.***